

REPUBLICANS ARE FLOCKING IN GREAT FORCE

At Parkersburg for the Convention of the League of Clubs—Record-Breaking Meeting Assured.

PRESIDENCY OF THE LEAGUE

Will be Hotly Contested—Four Candidates Striving for the Honor. Mayor Parkinson's Surprise.

THE GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST

Is Waxing Very Warm—Efforts Are Being Made to Relieve the Fight of Any Bitterness.

From a Staff Correspondent.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., March 7.—To-night, on the eve of the meeting of the West Virginia League of Republican Clubs, the town is crowded with party workers from all parts of the state and interest in the outcome of the contest for the presidency of the league is secondary only to discussion of the political situation in the state, especially the gubernatorial contest. In fact, league politics is more or less obscured by the more important fight being waged by Messrs. White and Freer.

Gubernatorial Contest. Among the party leaders to-night a general desire is being evinced to prevent the contest for the gubernatorial nomination from becoming too warm. It is realized that the state is Republican only on a narrow margin and that nothing must be done within the party organization that will threaten Republican success next November.

For this very reason, the announcement made in Wednesday's Intelligence, that the Freer and White people in Ohio county had agreed upon an equal division of the delegates to the wide nominating convention, was received here this afternoon with almost general satisfaction. A number of Freer men expressed their satisfaction with the agreement, and it appeared that it would receive formal ratification at the hands of Messrs. White and Freer, with everybody satisfied.

Some Disagreement. Late this afternoon, however, General Curtin, one of Congressman Freer's principal supporters, expressed himself against the Ohio county agreement, and intimated it might not be ratified. Squire W. W. Rogers, of Wheeling, who was present, also declared himself against a division of the delegates. This matter has been submitted to Mr. White, and he has acquiesced. It will be submitted to Colonel Freer, upon his arrival from Washington, early in the morning, and it remains to be seen what he will do. Most of his Ohio county supporters are in favor of the division, and it is not thought he will antagonize his friends by the launching of what is deemed to be for the best.

The league presidency is a difficult proposition to diagnose in advance of the actual balloting.

League Presidency.

One of the shrewdest politicians in the state hazards the prediction that Barrett will lead on the first ballot, but at the same time, he admits that Mayor Parkinson, Moundsville, is strong, and may surprise the bunch by walking off with the plum. Mr. Vandervort's friends are confident he will defeat Barrett, and Mr. Robinson is making a most vigorous fight. Very little is heard of the other officers. The vice presidencies will likely go to disappointed aspirants for the presidency.

Mayor Parkinson's friends, at midnight, say that his eleventh hour candidacy seems to have struck the popular chord. They claim the First congressional district practically sold for their man and have promised support from other parts of the state. They believe Parkinson will start off with a good following, and will increase his strength with each succeeding ballot. The more ballots the greater his strength is the way the Marshall county crowd see it to-night.

Senator Thurston left Washington to-night and will arrive here at noon Thursday. It is now said Senator Elkins will not be able to come. Senator Scott is expected to-night, as are Congressmen Downer and Dayton.

Aside from the gubernatorial contest, congressional politics is generally discussed, especially the Fourth district, where State Senator James A. Hughes, of Huntington, and State Treasurer M. A. Kendall, of Parkersburg, are the announced candidates.

Congressional Politics.

Both are here, and making all kinds of political hay at each other's expense. Hughes says the Fourth district has been represented by small men long enough. Miller and Freer are both of short stature, and Kendall is decidedly in the same boat, while Hughes is a six-footer. Grant Pitzer, of Martinsburg, is here, and says the launching of his congressional boom in the Second district has been attended with most satisfactory encouragement. His opponent, Congressman Dayton, will be here late to-night. Not much is heard of First and Third district politics.

Circuit Judge E. S. Doolittle, of Huntington, who came in this afternoon, announces his intention to enter himself among the aspirants for the vacancy on the state supreme bench. He will have the support of Cabell and other counties in the Sixth judicial district.

The Auditorship.

Parlor H. at the Jackson hotel, has been secured by Mr. James K. Hall, and here he is entertaining many friends to-night. His candidacy for auditor is gaining strength rapidly, and he is considered dangerous by the other aspirants. The three leaders in the race for auditor are said to be Hall, Scherr, and LaFollette.

Supreme Court Judgeship.

There is considerable gossip about the two supreme court nominations to-night. Ex-Congressman Warren Miller, of the Fourth district, who was mentioned in this connection, said he did not desire the nomination.

LEAGUE CONVENTION

Promises to be the Most Largely Attended in the History of the Organization—A New Candidate for the Presidency Suddenly Springs Up. The Meeting Attracts All the Prominent Leaders of the State.

From a Staff Correspondent.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., March 7.—Already, eighteen hours before the assembling of the meeting of the West Virginia League of Republican Clubs, Parkersburg is overflowing with visitors, and the town will have to strain several points to comfortably take care of the Republican hosts of the "Little Mountain State." The two leading hotels, the Jackson and Blennerhassett, are "full-up" now, and the rush has only begun. For the nonce the star of the ever-present commercial man is dimmed, and he finds it difficult to push his way through the crowds of politicians, hotel lobby men, and street vendors, that are doing business, that is among the impossibilities; nothing is talked of but politics, business has been sidetracked until normal conditions are restored on Friday.

Of course the presidency of the league forms the principal topic of conversation. The other officers are little talked of, in fact are almost entirely lost sight of in the warm contest being waged for the presidency. As exclusively chronicled in Wednesday's Intelligence, Mr. W. B. Matthews, of Marshall county, withdrew from the race last night, and the aspirants in the field, Messrs. T. F. Barrett and J. W. Vandervort, of Parkersburg, and Mr. Ira E. Robinson, of Grafton, prosecuting attorney of Taylor county.

New Richmond in the Field.

Just when the trio were congratulating themselves that the contest had narrowed down to proportions that would enable them to form an intelligent estimate on the outcome, the news was circulated that another candidate had entered the race for the presidency in the person of Mayor J. C. Parkinson, of Moundsville. Mr. Parkinson was putting in some spare time this afternoon, and he had his headquarters in Prison Warden Sam A. Hawk. Dr. S. M. Steele and A. L. Hooton, of Moundsville. He expects to bring to his standard the greater part of the vote of the First congressional district, and has expectations of support from other sections of the state. He was working on the advance guard of the Ohio county delegation this evening, and met with encouragement. As one prominent member of the delegation expressed it, "I think we should support and endorse him for the presidency who comes from our section, and Mr. Parkinson is undoubtedly a man well fitted for the office, both from the view-points of experience and natural ability. I believe he would make an ideal presiding officer, and I know he would devote his energies toward making the league a power in the coming campaign."

Wood County's Aspirants.

Here in Wood county, Messrs. Vandervort and Barrett are waging a warm contest, but no bad blood is in evidence—the fight is a good natured one, and if one of the pair wins his defeated opponent from Wood will be among the first to extend congratulations. The fight in Wood for the league presidency has been responsible for the organization of an unprecedented number of Republican clubs, apparently only for the purpose of securing Vandervort or Barrett votes in to-morrow's meeting, but the supporters of both men say all the club organizations are legitimate, and that every one of them will be in evidence in the coming campaign. If this is true, the political parlors in Parkersburg next fall ought to be record breakers in point of numbers. No less than forty clubs have been organized in the county, and every one of the bunch will be represented by full delegations to-morrow.

Mr. Vandervort's friends assert he will lead on the first ballot to-morrow afternoon. He will, they claim, have a large majority of the vote of Wood county to begin with, and a number of the interior counties, where the Vandervort family is numerous and known for its strong Republican tendencies. Dr. W. B. Stathers, superintendent of the Weston asylum, who came in this afternoon, says Vandervort will have the following interior counties solid: Lewis, Braxton, Upshur, Webster, Nicholas and Gilmer. In addition to these, of course, the Vandervort people claim many other votes.

Mr. Barrett is equally confident, and says only a few of the Wood county delegates will be for Vandervort. Barrett has powerful influences at work in his behalf, and may show strength that will surprise even his most ardent admirers and supporters. By the way, speaking of Dr. Stathers, he informed the Intelligence this afternoon, that he had it from the editor of the Grafton Sentinel so late as this morning, that Taylor county (the home of Auditor LaFollette) would choose a delegation to the state nominating convention that will be solidly for Arnold Scherr, of Mineral, for state auditor. This is on the face of a surprising fact, but it is claimed that the facts warrant it. It is given now for what it is worth—and, for course, its worth a matter of conjecture.

A Record-Breaking Convention.

It is estimated there will be between 1,200 and 1,500 bona fide delegates and alternates in attendance at to-morrow's convention. This would be a record breaker in attendance, no former meeting of the league approached so many delegates. Of these Ohio county alone delegates, between sixty and 100, and the Parkersburg and Wood county delegates and alternates will number fully 400—so these two counties will furnish fully one-third of the meeting's strength.

Many prominent party men are also attending, including General Curtin, of Harrison county; Warden Hawk, Dr. Steele and Mayor Parkinson, of Parkersburg; Arnold C. Scherr, of Mineral; Dr. Hall, Dr. W. E. Stathers, Deputy Sheriff Goodwin, of Lewis; Prosecuting Attorney Ira E. Robinson, of Taylor; State Senator James A. Hughes, of Huntington; John H. McCoy, of Tyler; Thomas E. Davies, of Taylor; Secretary of State Dawson; State Treasurer Kendall, Auditor LaFollette, J. L. Campbell, a prominent Free Press editor; Postmaster H. M. Adams and his wife; Postmaster J. A. Trotter; Postmaster O. A. Petty, Grant Hall and Captain Aris, of Charleston, and others too numerous to mention.

Narrow Escape From Wreck.

The Ohio county delegation's advance guard arrived at 1 o'clock this afternoon, and en route their train, the "Ohio Valley Express," on the Ohio River railroad, had a narrow escape from being wrecked a short distance below St. Mary's. The train had caused a heavy slide of earth and rock at a spot where the hill side rises sheer at one side of the track while the Ohio flows just to the right. Fortunately, a track walker discovered the slide just in time to stop the train, which was stopped only a few feet from the obstruction, which was a two-ton rock that would have sent engine and train plunging into the yellow-hued and fast rising Ohio. After a delay of half an hour the obstruction was removed and the train proceeded. In the Ohio county delegation's train were Messrs. James K. Hall, H. C. Richards, Richard Robertson, Charles H. Hennig, John E. Sobellase, H. L. Wheat, Harry W. Moore, M. A. Chew, C. H. Watkins, Jr. and S. O. Boyce. Joining the party at Moundsville were Prison Warden Sam A. Hawk and Dr. S. M. Steele.

Postmaster George Work greeted the train at Sistersville, and said Tyler's big delegation would be here to-night. Some of the Ohio county crowd are at the Jackson and others at the Blennerhassett. Mr. Hall has opened headquarters at the former hotel, and is putting in some hard licks for the auditorial campaign.

The meeting is the Mecca for all the aspirants for places on the state ticket. Among those already on hand and hard at work are Messrs. James K. Hall, Arnold C. Scherr and L. M. LaFollette, candidates for auditor and S. E. Hansen, of Marshall, who aspires to the treasury portfolio. Others are expected to-night.

To-Day's League Meeting.

The first session of the league to-morrow will be called to order by Acting President W. B. Matthews, in the Auditorium theatre, at 10:30 a. m. An address of welcome will be delivered on behalf of the city of Parkersburg by Mayor Charles H. Turner, and he will be followed by another local speaker, who will second the sentiments. Mr. Matthews will probably respond on behalf of the league. Next the league will choose delegates to the National League of Republican Clubs, and following will come appointment of the usual committees on credentials, resolutions, etc., and then the noon recess will be taken.

Afternoon Session Will Convene at 2:30 o'clock. Officers for the ensuing term will be elected, as follows: President, vice president (one for each congressional district), secretary, treasurer and executive committee.

Then will come the address of the day, by United States Senator John M. Thurston, of Nebraska, who will be introduced by West Virginia's junior senator, Hon. N. B. Scott.

The business of the meeting will be finished at the afternoon session.

THE SEARCH FOR DEAD CONTINUES.

The Terrible Story Goes Some of Its Horrible Features—Number Not So Great.

NO HOPE FOR THE ENTOMBED, None of Whom Are Believed to Be Alive—Mines Thought to be On Fire.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 7.—The most conservative estimates place the number of killed in the Red Ash mine disaster at between thirty and forty. Up to a late hour this afternoon twenty-one of the victims had been removed. Six were taken out this morning, all dead. Of the twenty-one already taken out, fifteen were dead, and one is fatally injured. The other five are seriously hurt, but may get well.

No Hope for Entombed Miners.

There is absolutely no hope that any of those still in the mines are alive, and it is not probable that it may be several days before they can be reached. This is owing to the fact that the air in the mine is so very hot. It is thought that the mine may be on fire.

Number Yet Unknown.

The number of victims still in the mine is as yet unknown. General Manager Howell estimates that the number in the mine at the time of the explosion was thirty-six. To-day the men who were employed by the company, but who had not entered the mine when the explosion occurred, assembled and took a tally. This tally revealed that thirty-nine men were not present to answer to their names. This is the number which the surviving miners estimate were in the mine at the time of the explosion. The reason there were not more was because of the early hour. It was only a little after 7 when the explosion occurred, and not all of the men had yet reported. Many of them had escaped which are nothing short of a miracle.

One miner had intended to go to the mine about 5 o'clock and get his tools, having secured employment elsewhere. He awakened at that hour, but it was so dark that he decided to wait till a little later. He overheard himself to give the mine physician a letter, and another went for him. They reached the mine just as the explosion occurred.

Rescuing parties are still hard at work. Air is pumped into the shaft by compression.

The Open Lamp Theory.

Theories still vary as to the possible cause of the explosion. The latest to be advanced is that the substitute mine boss, who was acting in the place of his brother, carried an ordinary lamp with him, in addition to his safety lamp, and thus failed to detect the presence of gas before it was ignited. It is said that the men frequently, against the orders of the company, would carry ordinary lamps to give themselves better light. It is thought that a great many of the victims will be found at what is known as the "Great Parting."

Crowds of People.

Several thousand people visited the scene of the explosion to-day. All day long the crowds surged up and down the railroad track between the mouth of the mine and the village, a half mile away. As the dead were taken out they were carried to the homes of the bereft and prepared for burial. In one casket an aged father wept over the corpse of his two sons.

The Five Injured Men Will Probably Be Removed to Hospitals in This City.

Store-keeper Shirley stated that when the explosion occurred Dr. Smith, the mine physician, was at once sent for, and that he and several others immediately hurried across the river for more physicians.

Eyes witnesses state that at the report of the explosion the women and children rushed out of their homes screaming frantically. Then the men rushed down on them they rushed, and a stillness of death ensued. There was not a sound in the little grief-stricken village.

THIRTY NINE MINERS

Still Entombed in Red Ash, All Supposed to Be Dead—So Far Twenty-nine Bodies Have Been Taken Out, and Five Rescued Alive.

FIRE CREEK, W. Va., March 7.—The rescuing parties continued working hard at Red Ash mine to-day, in removing debris and securing the bodies of the victims of the explosion of yesterday.

The scenes of distress among those hunting their missing friends are still as appalling as yesterday. The work at the mine continues night and day and it is still impossible to give the exact number of the victims or to identify all of the bodies that have been recovered. The most conservative estimates of some of those connected with the mine place the number of killed at fifty-two, and there are others who insist that the number of victims will be found to reach sixty. Six more bodies were recovered early this morning. A report was made at the mine during the afternoon that the total number removed was twenty-one of whom fifteen are dead, one fatally injured and five others seriously hurt.

A report from the rescuers at the mine after 8 o'clock to-night was that thirty-four had been taken, twenty-nine being dead and five seriously injured. Those rescued alive are: Carl Downey, John L. Day, Joseph Elliott, John Kane and Harry Dawson. While the surviving miners and others estimate that there are at least thirty-nine miners entombed, General Manager Howell says there are still in the mine only thirty-six. The estimate of the latter would indicate that there were seventy killed and five injured, and it is conceded that all of those still in the mine are dead.

The following bodies of the victims of the disaster were removed from the mine to-day: Simon Pitts, Neville Ramsey, Ed. Hamrich, (twelve), aged twelve; Volney Arrey, John Stone, Bob Hall, Smith Franklin, Hollister Noel, Isaac Morris, N. Dawes, (colored). The body of a white man, as yet not identified, was also rescued. It is discovered that there were three

THE SEARCH FOR DEAD CONTINUES.

The Terrible Story Goes Some of Its Horrible Features—Number Not So Great.

NO HOPE FOR THE ENTOMBED, None of Whom Are Believed to Be Alive—Mines Thought to be On Fire.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 7.—The most conservative estimates place the number of killed in the Red Ash mine disaster at between thirty and forty. Up to a late hour this afternoon twenty-one of the victims had been removed. Six were taken out this morning, all dead. Of the twenty-one already taken out, fifteen were dead, and one is fatally injured. The other five are seriously hurt, but may get well.

No Hope for Entombed Miners.

There is absolutely no hope that any of those still in the mines are alive, and it is not probable that it may be several days before they can be reached. This is owing to the fact that the air in the mine is so very hot. It is thought that the mine may be on fire.

Number Yet Unknown.

The number of victims still in the mine is as yet unknown. General Manager Howell estimates that the number in the mine at the time of the explosion was thirty-six. To-day the men who were employed by the company, but who had not entered the mine when the explosion occurred, assembled and took a tally. This tally revealed that thirty-nine men were not present to answer to their names. This is the number which the surviving miners estimate were in the mine at the time of the explosion. The reason there were not more was because of the early hour. It was only a little after 7 when the explosion occurred, and not all of the men had yet reported. Many of them had escaped which are nothing short of a miracle.

One miner had intended to go to the mine about 5 o'clock and get his tools, having secured employment elsewhere. He awakened at that hour, but it was so dark that he decided to wait till a little later. He overheard himself to give the mine physician a letter, and another went for him. They reached the mine just as the explosion occurred.

Rescuing parties are still hard at work. Air is pumped into the shaft by compression.

The Open Lamp Theory.

Theories still vary as to the possible cause of the explosion. The latest to be advanced is that the substitute mine boss, who was acting in the place of his brother, carried an ordinary lamp with him, in addition to his safety lamp, and thus failed to detect the presence of gas before it was ignited. It is said that the men frequently, against the orders of the company, would carry ordinary lamps to give themselves better light. It is thought that a great many of the victims will be found at what is known as the "Great Parting."

Crowds of People.

Several thousand people visited the scene of the explosion to-day. All day long the crowds surged up and down the railroad track between the mouth of the mine and the village, a half mile away. As the dead were taken out they were carried to the homes of the bereft and prepared for burial. In one casket an aged father wept over the corpse of his two sons.

The Five Injured Men Will Probably Be Removed to Hospitals in This City.

Store-keeper Shirley stated that when the explosion occurred Dr. Smith, the mine physician, was at once sent for, and that he and several others immediately hurried across the river for more physicians.

Eyes witnesses state that at the report of the explosion the women and children rushed out of their homes screaming frantically. Then the men rushed down on them they rushed, and a stillness of death ensued. There was not a sound in the little grief-stricken village.

THIRTY NINE MINERS

Still Entombed in Red Ash, All Supposed to Be Dead—So Far Twenty-nine Bodies Have Been Taken Out, and Five Rescued Alive.

FIRE CREEK, W. Va., March 7.—The rescuing parties continued working hard at Red Ash mine to-day, in removing debris and securing the bodies of the victims of the explosion of yesterday.

The scenes of distress among those hunting their missing friends are still as appalling as yesterday. The work at the mine continues night and day and it is still impossible to give the exact number of the victims or to identify all of the bodies that have been recovered. The most conservative estimates of some of those connected with the mine place the number of killed at fifty-two, and there are others who insist that the number of victims will be found to reach sixty. Six more bodies were recovered early this morning. A report was made at the mine during the afternoon that the total number removed was twenty-one of whom fifteen are dead, one fatally injured and five others seriously hurt.

A report from the rescuers at the mine after 8 o'clock to-night was that thirty-four had been taken, twenty-nine being dead and five seriously injured. Those rescued alive are: Carl Downey, John L. Day, Joseph Elliott, John Kane and Harry Dawson. While the surviving miners and others estimate that there are at least thirty-nine miners entombed, General Manager Howell says there are still in the mine only thirty-six. The estimate of the latter would indicate that there were seventy killed and five injured, and it is conceded that all of those still in the mine are dead.

The following bodies of the victims of the disaster were removed from the mine to-day: Simon Pitts, Neville Ramsey, Ed. Hamrich, (twelve), aged twelve; Volney Arrey, John Stone, Bob Hall, Smith Franklin, Hollister Noel, Isaac Morris, N. Dawes, (colored). The body of a white man, as yet not identified, was also rescued. It is discovered that there were three

THE NASTY WITHDRAWAL OF BOERS

From Roberts' Front—They Retired Before Him in Great Confusion.

CRONJE GOES TO ST. HELENA

English Cabinet Will Not at Present Entertain Proposals for Exchange of Prisoners.

LONDON, March 8, 4 a. m.—Lord Roberts wired yesterday morning from Oudfontein and in the evening from Poplar Grove, fourteen miles eastward. In an application of the elementary principles of strategy the Boer positions, fifteen miles long across his path, have been emptied and their holders have been obliged to retire in confusion consequent upon hasty withdrawal.

Nothing was done by Lord Roberts to disturb the symmetry and the deadly ingenuity of the Boer trenches in front of him. He marched out infantry estimated from the commands named at 20,000 men, and sent 10,000 horsemen and horse artillery in a bold sweep to the Boer left, whereupon the Boer centre and right became untenable. Fifty British fell when the cavalry came into contact with the Boers.

The Boer Strength.

The correspondents differ as to the enemy's strength. The Daily Mail's representative thinks the Boers number something more than 4,000. The Daily News man estimates them at 18,000. As these figures come from observers at headquarters it is clear that Lord Roberts' force was overwhelming superior. He can scarcely have fewer than 45,000. Immediately available, as the guards brigade braced him from Lord Methuen Tuesday.

Lord Methuen now commands only volunteers and the local forces at Kimberley, some of whom have gone toward Mafeking.

The Boers do not yet appear to appreciate the mobility of Lord Roberts' force, which was able to strike so swiftly in this affair that the enemy had to abandon a gun, much forage and a large quantity of camp equipment.

A Note of Caution.

The Standard cautions Englishmen against "rising to a height of serene contentment, which the actual position does not justify," and thus measures the situation.

A large number of the Boers are still in the field. They have a wide range of country over which they can operate. Although their morale is somewhat damaged, it would be too much to say that they will not stand again. Indeed, what we want them to do is to stand again, for it is only in a real stand-up fight that we can inflict those losses which would eventually lead the defeated to seek for peace. Lord Roberts has gained a success, but it must not be regarded as a signal victory until we know what damage has been inflicted and what prisoners have been taken."

The Dutch risings in the northwestern districts of Cape Colony are the only cloud visible in the sky of British prospects.

Cronje to Go to St. Helena.

The military authorities have decided that General Cronje and the other Boer prisoners shall be sent immediately to the island of St. Helena, there to remain until the end of the war.

Lord Roberts has chosen Lord Bathurst, colonel of a militia regiment at the front, to command the escort to St. Helena, which was last month placed in cable communication with Cape Town and London.

It is also asserted that the cabinet has resolved neither to propose nor to entertain a proposal at the present juncture for an exchange of prisoners.

A COMPLETE ROUTE.

Boers Driven in Confusion From Strong Position.

LONDON, March 7, midnight—The war office has just posted the following advice from Lord Roberts: "Poplar Grove, Wednesday, March 7, evening.—We had a very successful day and have completely routed the enemy, who are in full retreat."

"The position which they occupied is extremely strong and cunningly arranged with a second line of intrenchments, which would have caused us heavy losses had a direct attack been made."

"The turning movement was necessarily wide, owing to the nature of the ground, and the cavalry and horse artillery horses are much done up."

"The fighting was completely confined to the cavalry division, which, as usual, did exceedingly well, and Gen. French reports that the horse artillery batteries did great execution among the enemy."

"Our casualties were about fifty. I regret to say that Lieutenant Kenwick was killed, and Lieutenant Bailey was severely wounded, both of the Twelfth Lancers. Lieutenant De Crespigny, of the Second Life Guards, was severely wounded. Remaining casualties will be telegraphed to-morrow."

BOER COMMANDO

Of Three Thousand Offered to Surrender.

LONDON, March 7.—A dispatch to the Times from Oudfontein dated Tuesday, March 8, says:

"A commando of 3,000 Boers has offered to surrender, but on impossible terms."

"General Cronje's losses were greater than he admitted. Sixty bodies of Boers have been found in one grave."

Weather Forecast.

For Ohio—Fair Thursday; warmer in northwestern portion; partly cloudy and warmer Friday; variable winds.

For Western Pennsylvania—Fair Thursday; fair Friday; warmer; variable winds.

For West Virginia—Fair Thursday and Friday; warmer Friday; winds becoming southeasterly.

Local Temperature.

The temperature yesterday as observed by C. Scherr, druggist, corner of Market and Fourteenth streets, was as follows:

THE NASTY WITHDRAWAL OF BOERS

From Roberts' Front—They Retired Before Him in Great Confusion.

CRONJE GOES TO ST. HELENA

English Cabinet Will Not at Present Entertain Proposals for Exchange of Prisoners.

LONDON, March 8, 4 a. m.—Lord Roberts wired yesterday morning from Oudfontein and in the evening from Poplar Grove, fourteen miles eastward. In an application of the elementary principles of strategy the Boer positions, fifteen miles long across his path, have been emptied and their holders have been obliged to retire in confusion consequent upon hasty withdrawal.

Nothing was done by Lord Roberts to disturb the symmetry and the deadly ingenuity of the Boer trenches in front of him. He marched out infantry estimated from the commands named at 20,000 men, and sent 10,000 horsemen and horse artillery in a bold sweep to the Boer left, whereupon the Boer centre and right became untenable. Fifty British fell when the cavalry came into contact with the Boers.

The Boer Strength.

The correspondents differ as to the enemy's strength. The Daily Mail's representative thinks the Boers number something more than 4,000. The Daily News man estimates them at 18,000. As these figures come from observers at headquarters it is clear that Lord Roberts' force was overwhelming superior. He can scarcely have fewer than 45,000. Immediately available, as the guards brigade braced him from Lord Methuen Tuesday.

Lord Methuen now commands only volunteers and the local forces at Kimberley, some of whom have gone toward Mafeking.

The Boers do not yet appear to appreciate the mobility of Lord Roberts' force, which was able to strike so swiftly in this affair that the enemy had to abandon a gun, much forage and a large quantity of camp equipment.

A Note of Caution.

The Standard cautions Englishmen against "rising to a height of serene contentment, which the actual position does not justify," and thus measures the situation.

A large number of the Boers are still in the field. They have a wide range of country over which they can operate. Although their morale is somewhat damaged, it would be too much to say that they will not stand again. Indeed, what we want them to do is to stand again, for it is only in a real stand-up fight that we can inflict those losses which would eventually lead the defeated to seek for peace. Lord Roberts has gained a success, but it must not be regarded as a signal victory until we know what damage has been inflicted and what prisoners have been taken."

The Dutch risings in the northwestern districts of Cape Colony are the only cloud visible in the sky of British prospects.

Cronje to Go to St. Helena.

The military authorities have decided that General Cronje and the other Boer prisoners shall be sent immediately to the island of St. Helena, there to remain until the end of the war.

Lord Roberts has chosen Lord Bathurst, colonel of a militia regiment at the front, to command the escort to St. Helena, which was last month placed in cable communication with Cape Town and London.

It is also asserted that the cabinet has resolved neither to propose nor to entertain a proposal at the present juncture for an exchange of prisoners.

A COMPLETE ROUTE.

Boers Driven in Confusion From Strong Position.

LONDON, March 7, midnight—The war office has just posted the following advice from Lord Roberts: "Poplar Grove, Wednesday, March 7, evening.—We had a very successful day and have completely routed the enemy, who are in full retreat."

"The position which they occupied is extremely strong and cunningly arranged with a second line of intrenchments, which would have caused us heavy losses had a direct attack been made."

"The turning movement was necessarily wide, owing